

Your body is a temple of the

Holy Spirit

within you.

1 Corinthians 6:19a

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Archdiocese of Galveston Houston

816 Park Dr. La Porte, Texas 77571
281-471-2000 Fax:281-471-9365

Website: www.stmaryslaporte.com E-mail: stmaryslpcc@sbcglobal.net

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday
9:00 am-12:00 Noon
1:00 pm- 4:00 pm

Eucharistic Celebrations

Saturday: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m. (Spanish)
1:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Church

Monday (No Mass)
Tuesday & Wednesday – 12:00 noon
Thursday & Friday – 8:30 a.m.

Parish Staff

Rev. Tony A. Castro, Pastor
Deacon Hector Cantu
Deacon Julio Matallana
Deacon Stan Avallone

Bookkeeper-Nelda Shealy
Bulletin/Sacramental Records-
Cheryl Frobenius
Maintenance- Steve Regan
Parish Secretary-Jessica Jaramillo

C.C.E. Director-Shari Davis
C.C.E. Coordinator - Graciela Lopez
EDGE Coordinator-Randy Tercero
Life Teen Director-Shari Davis

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Classes are held on the 2nd & 3rd Tuesday of each month. Please come by the Parish Office to register or call for more information.

Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Penance is offered on Saturdays, from 4:00p.m. to 5:00p.m. or by appointment.

Sacrament of Marriage

Please contact the Parish Office at least (6) six months prior to your desired wedding date to arrange a meeting with Father Tony or one of the Deacons. If you want a Mass, you must call Father Tony.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Are you a non-Catholic who is interested in joining the Catholic faith? Are you a baptized Catholic who has never received the sacraments of 1st Communion and Confirmation? If your answer is yes to either of these questions, call the Parish Office.

Sacrament of First Reconciliation/First Communion

First Reconciliation/Communion candidates must be baptized, at least in the second grade, and have been attending CCE classes for at least TWO full years prior to entering into sacramental preparation. Adults will be referred to the RCIA program.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmation is a separate more intensive examination of the faith and our responsibilities as practicing Catholics. Confirmands will meet once per month in addition to attending Life Teen faithfully, both one full year prior to the beginning Sacramental preparation and during the preparation year (no more than three absences either year). Parents/Sponsors will also be required to attend once per month meetings. Confirmation candidates must have previously received the Sacraments of Baptism and First Holy Communion. A habit of attending weekly Mass is required for both years. Please, note the above represents the minimum requirements. Adults will be referred to the RCIA program.

Vision Statement

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception is a Catholic Community of Believers called to serve Christ by gathering together at the Lord's Table in worship and praise, by serving our brothers and sisters in Christ, and by being a welcoming beacon of light to all. We are many parts, yet one body in Christ.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 17, 2021

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Mass Intentions For The Week

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Saturday, January 16:

5:30pm

Joan Nason†

By: Walter & Bonnie Hayes

Sunday, January 17:

9:00am

Jose Molina†

By: Ortiz Family

11:00am

People of the Parish

1:00pm

Shelley Stoker†

By: Family Friends

Tuesday, January 19:

12:00pm

Don Gore†

By: Hellstein Family

Wednesday, January 20:

12:00 pm

Mary Boatman†

By: Silda Griffiths

Thursday, January 21:

5:30pm

Special Intention for Ron Johnston

By: Irene Johnston

Friday, January 22:

8:30am

Special Intention for Friends & Family

By: Howard Frantz

Saturday, January 23:

5:30pm

Paula Reyes†

By: Reyes Family

Sunday, January 24:

9:00am

Nick Campos†

By: Campos Family

11:00am

People of the Parish

1:00pm

Ignacio† & Maria† Reyes

By: Gonzales Family

~ Parishioner Updates ~

If you have changed your address, phone number or marital status, please contact the parish office as soon as possible. If we do not have the correct contact information, it will cause a delay in receiving your tax donation letters.

Tax statements will be mailed to those who are registered and have donated \$250. or more during the 2020 calendar year. If you have donated a lesser amount, but would like a statement, please contact the office.

~ Please Note FOR 2020 ~

Any donations received after December 31 will not be posted for 2020. Remember, you must be registered in our parish to receive a Tax Statement. Registration forms are available in the office or on the tables located at the entrance of the church. If you have baptized your child or have children in CCE it does not mean you are automatically registered in the parish. If you are not sure if you are registered or have any additional questions, please call the office.

Weekly Collections

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January 9/10, 2021 \$4,715.00

**December Online Giving \$13,218.48
& Miscellaneous Deposits \$ 8,526.00**

If you would like to send your weekly donations, please visit St. Mary's website and go to the Online Giving icon, Flocknotes or mail them to St. Mary's, 816 Park Dr., La Porte, TX 77571.

www.stmaryslaporte.com

Thank you for your generosity!

Pope's Prayer Intention for January

Evangelization: Human Fraternity

May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

Impostor priest email/texting scams

Recently, there have been several reports of fraudulent email solicitations for financial support, usually in the form of gift cards, coming from email accounts identifying as Archdiocesan priests, including Cardinal DiNardo. To minimize fraudulent impact, pastors are encouraged to remind their membership that priests/churches would never make such appeals to the parish community. Advise parishioners to notify the church office immediately if they receive any unfamiliar donation requests.

*****Once again, this scam has happened this past week to several of our parishioners in an email/text message supposedly coming from Fr. Tony asking for the donation of gift cards. Please be cautious.**

Spiritual Direction

Feeling stuck in your faith? Deeper intimacy with Our Lord Is possible. With gentle encouragement from a spiritual director and your commitment of 30-60 minutes a day you can enter into a deeper relationship with Our Lord than you ever thought possible. Spiritual direction can help you learn to pray better. Interested in spiritual direction? Due to COVID Spiritual Direction is available via Zoom. **Contact Tracy: stmarysrcia@yahoo.com**

Dear parish family,

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

The church year has moved now into "Ordinary Time". And there is nothing "ordinary" going on in our country in these days. And we all just pray hard that the business of state affairs follow its course on deciding matters for the common good and safety for all. But as church people we focus on our faith and who we are before God, and most especially how we respond to the call of God.

The word "Ordinary" in church liturgical Year refers to the "ordinal" or "numbered" Sundays – which are 34 Sundays in Ordinary Time. These are the Sundays outside the main seasons of the church (Advent, Christmas, and Lent & Easter times). The Gospel of Mark is covered in this year cycle.

In our First Reading this Sunday we hear of how Samuel answered the call of God. Once he is aware that it is God speaking, he says, "Speak, for your servant is listening." Twice Samuel says "Here I am, Lord." His response has become the subject of numerous hymns and other writings. One of the more popular hymns has as its refrain, *"Here I am Lord; is it I Lord? I have heard You calling in the night. I will go Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart."*

Samuel's life was transformed when he responded to God. His response captures the essence of what our response to God's call should be. Do we respond as definitely as Samuel does? That is what we are called to do.

So too were Andrew's, John's, and Simon Peter's when they decided to follow Jesus (gospel reading). By giving themselves over to the Lord, they are no longer living for themselves.

In the gospel, Jesus asks the first disciples an important and a logical question: "What are you looking for?" It is the same question He asks of all of us. And he tells us to "Come and see," in the same way as He did to the first disciples. He invites us to discover the joy of friendship and communion with Him. Saint Augustine said that it is the Redeemer, who seeks us out, even when we are not looking for him. It is God who initiates and who draws us to himself.

All of us are disciples of the Lord today and we tried our best to answer the call to follow him in our particular vocation in life. Our answer may not be as dramatic compared to the first disciples, or perhaps those today who give their lives completely to serve God in church ministry. Yet our responses to the call of the Lord can be heard in different corners and various aspects of our life. Those maybe are loud and clear at home, at work, or at recreation when we need to follow the Lord than to follow the ways of the world. Or maybe the voice of the Lord may call us for some needs of our parish life. Maybe the Lord is calling you to stay with him for an hour at Adoration chapel to be his or her prayer warriors. Or some ways we can help our church in little ways. So when this type of call comes, be like Samuel in the first reading, saying, "Here I am Lord."

Stay safe & healthy always. Blessings to all!

Fr. Tony

Querida familia parroquial,

Segundo Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

El año eclesial se ha trasladado ahora al "tiempo ordinario". Y no está sucediendo nada "ordinario" en nuestro país en estos días. Y todos rezamos arduamente para que las situaciones de los problemas estatales sigan su curso al decidir asuntos para el bien común y la seguridad para todos. Pero como personas de la iglesia, nos enfocamos en nuestra fe y en quiénes somos ante Dios, y más especialmente en cómo respondemos al llamado de Dios.

La palabra "ordinario" en el año litúrgico de la iglesia se refiere a los domingos "ordinales" o "numerados", que son 34 domingos en el tiempo ordinario. Estos son los domingos fuera de las temporadas principales de la iglesia (Adviento, Navidad y Cuaresma y Pascua). El Evangelio de Marcos se cubre en este ciclo anual.

En nuestra primera lectura de este domingo escuchamos cómo Samuel respondió al llamado de Dios. Una vez que se da cuenta de que es Dios hablando, dice: "Habla, porque tu siervo está escuchando". Dos veces Samuel dice "Aquí estoy, Señor". Su respuesta se ha convertido en tema de numerosos himnos y otros escritos. Uno de los himnos más populares tiene como estribillo: "Aquí estoy, Señor; soy yo señor Te he oído llamar en la noche. Iré Señor, si me guías. Mantendré a tu pueblo en mi corazón".

La vida de Samuel se transformó cuando respondió a Dios. Su respuesta captura la esencia de lo que debería ser nuestra respuesta al llamado de Dios. ¿Respondemos tan definitivamente como lo hace Samuel? Eso es lo que estamos llamados a hacer.

También lo fueron los de Andrés, Juan y Simón Pedro cuando decidieron seguir a Jesús (lectura del evangelio). Al entregarse al Señor, ya no viven para sí mismos.

En el evangelio, Jesús les hace a los primeros discípulos una pregunta importante y lógica: "¿Qué estás buscando?" Es la misma pregunta que nos hace a todos. Y nos dice que "vengan y vean", de la misma manera que lo hizo con los primeros discípulos. Nos invita a descubrir la alegría de la amistad y la comunión con él. San Agustín dijo que es el Redentor, quien nos busca, incluso cuando no lo estamos buscando. Es Dios quien inicia y quien nos atrae hacia él.

Todos somos discípulos del Señor hoy y hemos hecho todo lo posible para responder al llamado de seguirlo en la vocación particular de nuestra vida. Nuestra respuesta puede no ser tan dramática en comparación con los primeros discípulos, o quizás con aquellos que hoy dan su vida por completo para servir a Dios en el ministerio de la iglesia. Sin embargo, nuestras respuestas al llamado del Señor se pueden escuchar en diferentes rincones y en varios aspectos de nuestra vida. Quizás sean fuertes y claros en casa, en el trabajo o en la recreación cuando necesitamos seguir al Señor que seguir los caminos del mundo. O tal vez la voz del Señor nos llame para algunas necesidades de nuestra vida parroquial. Quizás el Señor te está llamando a quedarte con él por una hora en la capilla de la Adoración para ser sus guerreros de oración. O algunas formas en las que podemos ayudar a nuestra iglesia en pequeñas formas. Entonces, cuando llegue este tipo de llamado, sea como Samuel en la primera lectura, diciendo: "Aquí estoy, Señor".

Mantente protegido y saludable siempre. Bendiciones para todos!

P. Tony



God Wants To Talk To You

SPEAK, LORD, WE ARE LISTENING

In today's first reading God keeps calling out in the night to a sleeping boy. Neither the boy, Samuel, nor his teacher, Eli, understands who is calling. But God's persistence convinces them. Samuel is then ready—not ready yet to do anything, but ready to listen. "Speak, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:10).

In the Gospel Jesus is out teaching. Various people notice him and begin to gather around. They soon become disciples and, like the young Samuel, are ready—not ready yet to do anything, but ready to listen. "Speak," they say, "we are listening."

God's voice is always with us, awake or asleep. It swirls around us like fog on a waterfront, enveloping us, gently urging us to wake up, to listen. Awareness of the voice comes first; then willingness to listen; then, in time, the decision to act, to live according to God's word. Let's ask today for the ability to keep our ears open so we don't miss God's voice.

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The Lighthouse Catholic Media Kiosks...

In the foyer of the Church there are several books and DVD's of informational material designed to help us grow in our faith. Go by and check them out!

Texas Catholic Herald

Check out the new digital edition of the Texas Catholic Herald! Read the latest issue online now at <https://www.archgh.org/digitaleditions>.



St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store

Store Hours:
Mon., Tues., and Wed., 9-11am
CAN YOU HELP?

We are in **DESPERATE** need of volunteers in order to keep our program going. Due to the current health crisis, many of our volunteers have had to step back. Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to fill the void we are currently experiencing.

All Donations Greatly Appreciated!

Volunteers can pick any day they are able to work. If you can help, please call the office or contact Norma @ 281-471-1752.

Please Pray For Our Troops and

Katherine Reichley & family, Aaron Binkley, Bianca Brog, Amber Saul, Myra Alvarez, Angela Rubio, Cathie Salinas, Steve McBride, Margarita Mora de Ramos, Raelynd, Ann De Bois, Becky Smith, Dianne Lemons, Dave & Cindy Schmitz, Peggy & Erica Hargens, Ruth Christian & family, Don & Allie Fay Mathews, Cathy & Bill Eberle, Bob & Barbara Jennings, Robert D., Jenny Matlock, Albert Palacios, Elicia Durham, Christian Garcia, Jenny Matlock, Rey Salas, Sarah Purlee, Johnny Hughes, Miles Libby, Richard & Deanna Broderick, Ron Johnston, Diane Bond, Joe Bond, Dean & Benita Smithson, Jeremy Sander, Tyrina McCain, Belinda Lara, Joe Sturm, Maverick, Amber Sander, Bob McFarland, Barry Stuff and Hamid H. Kahn



Continue to Pray for *Edward Wachel, Joey Bernal, Joe Bernal, Wal'Dean Lundquist, Fr. Gary Rickles, Edward D. Palacios, Joe Lopez, Maria Garcia, Ladd Puskus, David Gonzalez, Vicki Farias, Nell Turk, Rosie Yznaga, Teresa Mills, Joe Lozano, Sr., Angeles Sullivan, Tim Hellstein, Leroy Marchan, Geraldine Christensen, Kathy Strader, Daniel Vasquez, Rosa Harness, Randy Hanks, Jeanette Tilley, Marisol Leyva & family, Marisol Luna, Pete & Juanita Sanchez, Betty Flynn, Orville Burgess, Edward Salinas, Marlene Orellana, Humberto Villalobos, Kathy & Mark McBride, Robert & Margaret Espinoza, Romela Nolan, Renee Cortez, Aurelia Hinojosa, Cathy Hanzelka, Msgr. Boli Zientek, Gayle Phillips, Jane Middleton, Rosa Reyes, Deacon Tom Lewis, Irene Templet, Preston Wolf, Marcos Vasquez, Gavin Binkley, Red Cornejo, Linda Jaramillo, Deacon Merce Leal, Sue Crockett, Ben Munoz, Diana Ortiz, Bob Davis, Janet Hoffpauir, Nick Martin, Barry Armstrong, and those requesting prayer via our web site.*

Please Pray for the Repose of the Souls of *Clarence Lewis, Olilia Romero and Ruben Chavez*

Our Sympathy to *Sheridan Lewis and family on the loss of her husband, Clarence, and Soledad Valencia on the loss of her sister, Olilia and brother in law Ruben*

Remember Our Shut-Ins *Lydia Rubio, Trinidad Arrindon, Elida Peterson, and those battling terminal illness and the residents of La Porte Care Center and Parson's House*

Please Note: Names on our "Please Pray For" list are left on for four weeks. If someone needs to be put back on the prayer list or added please call the office.



The Gabriel Project is designed to help women and teenagers who are in a crisis pregnancy. If you are in need of assistance or know someone who is, please contact Belinda @ 713-805-4961 or the Church Office.

We Are Here For You...

If you or a loved one would like to receive a visit from Fr. Tony or would like to be receiving Holy Communion at home, on an ongoing basis, please call the office. Deacon Stan is the only one bringing Holy Communion to the homebound at this time due to the current health crisis.

Baptismal Information

Baptism classes are currently being held each month. Due to COVID we are only able to offer the Spanish baptism classes and baptisms on an as needed basis. Special arrangements can be made by contacting the office.

Baptisms will be held the 2nd Sunday of each month. If you are planning to baptize here, you will need to contact the office and fill out a registration form. We will also need to make a copy of the child's birth certificate from the state. After you register, you may sign up for the baptism class.

If you do not live in La Porte, you must be a registered, active member of St Mary's to baptize your child here. You cannot register in our parish only to baptize your child. Please call the office to make arrangements to do the necessary paperwork.

Stay Connected at Home JOIN FORMED

Incredible online gateway to the best Catholic Content, all in one place. Go to stmaryslaporte.formed.org to register. If you are having any trouble getting registered, or any other problems, please contact Tracy stmarysrcia@yahoo.com. She will contact you and walk you through the steps to register.

**RCIA Class Thursday
6pm Rosary Hall**

(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Who should do the full RCIA program? If you are not baptized or were baptized in another Christian denomination and are interested in possibly becoming Catholic, RCIA is for you. If you are a baptized Catholic adult who needs First Holy communion and confirmation, then you should attend RCIA to receive those sacraments. Coming once (or twice... or more) obligates you to NOTHING.

For additional information about RCIA call the office or email Tracy, stmarysrcia@yahoo.com.

Activities for the Week

Sun. Jan. 17: CCE, EDGE & Life Teen

Mon. Jan 18: Office Closed Today
~ **Martin Luther King Day** ~

Tues. Jan. 19: Virtual Bible Study 6:30pm

Thurs. Jan. 21: Knights Mtg. Rosary Hall 6:30pm
RCIA 6pm Rosary Hall

Sun. Jan. 24: CCE, EDGE & Life Teen

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Heb 5:1-10; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20; Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9, 10c;
Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 3:1-6

Thursday: Heb 7:25 — 8:6; Ps 40:7-10, 17; Mk 3:7-12

Friday: Heb 8:6-13; Ps 85:8, 10-14; Mk 3:13-19, *or any of a number of readings for the Day of Prayer*

Saturday: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9;
Mk 3:20-21

Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10; Ps 25:4-9; 1 Cor 7:29-31;
Mk 1:14-20

2021 Respect Life Mass Join Cardinal DiNardo and Catholics from around the Archdiocese for our annual Respect Life Mass on Saturday, Jan. 23 at 11:00 a.m. The Mass will be held at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. Due to the pandemic, please register online to reserve your seat at <https://archgh.cvent.com/RespectLifeMass>. The Mass will also be available virtually at <https://www.archgh.org/live>.

National Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn

Friday, January 22 is dedicated in the Roman Missal in the United States as a National Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection for the Unborn. Friday, January 22, 2021 marks the 48th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision. Prayerful events during the day:

- Livestreamed Eucharistic Adoration from the Co-Cathedral- 7:30-4:30. Go to: <http://www.archgh.org/live>
- **St. Paul** will have an 8:30 pro-life Mass followed by a pro-life Rosary procession to the Marian Peace Garden
- **St. Paul** will have a 2 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour followed by Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3 p.m.

Altar Flowers 2021

Jan. 23/24, 30/31 Feb. 6/7, 13/14, 20/21, 27/28

Please contact Rose Kolenc 713-202-3283 or rose_kolenc@yahoo.com to reserve your dates.

Church Sanctuary Candle

In Loving Memory of Carmen Rodriguez
By Friends

Chapel Sanctuary Candle

In Loving Memory of Jesse James Trevino
By Delfino Lopez

Contact for the Altar Society is Sharon Ramos @ 281-451-9593, *President*.

St. Joseph's Chapel Sub Needed

Tues. Jan. 26, Feb. 2 & 9 @ 1pm
Is God Calling You to spend one hour a week with Him in 2021? Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held on Tuesday from 12noon to Thursday at 8:30am.. If you would like to schedule a weekly Holy Hour or be placed on the substitute list, please call the office.

The Greeting

At several points during the liturgy, the presider greets us with the words, "The Lord be with you." These simple words are not like the greetings that we exchange all day long—our "good mornings," our "hellos" and "how are yous." This liturgical greeting has roots deep in the Old Testament. In the book of Ruth, the words "the Lord be with you" are spoken by Boaz to the harvesters who are laboring in his fields (2:4); in the book of Judges, an angel speaks similar words to Gideon (6:12), where they are words of promise: for soon Gideon will lead his oppressed people to victory and freedom. For us, the words become a greeting of peace, a prayer that the Lord will indeed be with us, and a reminder of his promise to be with us always, to the end of the world (Matthew 28:20). Our response—"And also with you," soon to be "And with your spirit"—returns to the presider this prayer for the Lord's presence. As we know from the scriptures, a prayer for the Lord's presence is no small thing, for when God comes in our midst, God brings healing, grace, and challenge. God's presence transforms us.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

***Today Virtual CCE K-5
Sign in at 9:45 am***

EDGE Resumes LIVE Today 2pm

**Randy & Angie Tercero
randytercero@hotmail.com
713-826-0633**

Life Teen Class Live Today 2pm

Shari 1208stmarylp@gmail.com



Please pray for Our Lady's intercession and protection for this school year. Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide teachers, parents and the community in support of the children of the parish!